

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-31 have been examined. Claims 1-5, 9 and 20-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claims 6, 7 and 10-19 are allowed.

I. Preliminary Matters

Applicant has made a minor amendment to claim 18 to correct a typographical error. In particular, Applicant replaced a “period” with a “comma”. Such change is not made in view of the prior art and does not narrow the scope of the claim. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter the amendment since it does not require further search and/or consideration.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,463,758 to Ottesen (“Ottesen”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,695,993 to Takagi et al. (“Takagi”) and U.S. Patent No. 5,315,578 to Furukawa et al. (“Furukawa”).

Claims 1, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ottesen in view of Takagi and Furukawa. However, since claims 1, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant submits that the rejection of such claims is now moot.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ottesen in view of Takagi and Furukawa.

Claims 2-5, 9, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ottesen in view Takagi and Furukawa. However, since claims 2-5, 9, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29 and 31 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant submits that the rejection of such claims is now moot.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

As stated above, the Examiner has indicated that claims 6, 7 and 10-19 are allowed. Since the rejected claims have been canceled, Applicant submits that the Application is now in condition for allowance.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

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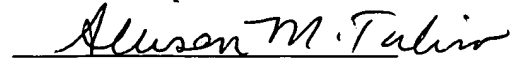
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